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By:

Susan L. Baka

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Fuerst, *et al.*

APPLICATION No.: 09/769,066

FILED: JANUARY 24, 2001

FOR: HEPATITIS E VIRUS ANTIGENS AND
USES THEREFOR

EXAMINER: WORTMAN, DONNA C.

ART UNIT: 1648

CONFIRMATION No.: 7789

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

JUN 18 2002

RECEIVED

Amendment in Response to Restriction Requirement

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2002, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 19-24, without prejudice.

REMARKS

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner divided the claims into the following groups: I. Claims 11-14, and 18, drawn to nucleic acid, vector, expression system, method of use, classified in class 536, subclass 23.72, e.g. II. Claims 19-21, drawn to a method of detecting hepatitis E infection and kit, classified in class 435, subclass 5. III. Claims 22-24, drawn to vaccine and method of immunizing, classified in class 424, subclass 189.1.